

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from Georgia, Mr. KINGSTON.

Mr. KINGSTON. Let me just conclude with what some of the options are that we are looking at, because I think it is important that our seniors know that we want to have reform plans that will simplify and strengthen Medicare, and yet give them all of the choices that they deserve, and one of them would be to keep the current Medicare plan that they are under. The other one is a coordinated benefit plan.

Mr. Speaker, another possible option is an employer association Medicare plan, because currently if someone is 65, they are forced off the private sector insurance, but they may want to keep it, and they may want to stay on their employer's plan. We want to give seniors that option.

Then there is the medical savings account, which would give seniors the right to save money and pocket the difference at the end of the year on what they save on their own health care costs. We, under these plans, are projecting a spending increase of about \$1,900 per person, going roughly from \$4,816 per person to \$6,734 over this time period to the year 2002, a 7-year time period.

Mr. Speaker, this is not a Medicare cut. We keep hearing from the hide-their-head-in-the-sand Members of Congress that we are trying to cut Medicare. This is not a cut. Now I know Washington DC math does funny tricks, but this is not a cut.

So to conclude, we want to simplify Medicare, we want to say that we want to strengthen it. I am confident that we can do it, and I am glad to say that it will be on a bipartisan basis, because there are a lot of Members of both parties who are stepping forward to make the tough decisions and do what is right for our American citizens.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield for just a moment. Actually I want to talk about something else, but very quickly.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, just taking a very brief time, in looking at this chart there, I have seen this chart several times, but we know health insurance is rising faster.

Mr. HOKE. Reclaiming my time—

Ms. KAPTUR. The 7 years you are talking about—

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, regular order.

Ms. KAPTUR. You are talking about over \$8,100 a year, so I would disagree with the gentleman.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank my friend.

Mr. HOKE. I am reclaiming my time.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I can answer it in 30 seconds if the gentleman will let me. Please, the lady is right, medical inflation on Medicare is going up 10.15 percent a year, but regular insurance inflation is at about 4 percent, and in the private sector, some corporations are actually having a 1-percent decrease. So what we are going to do, trying to do through all of these options, is slow down the rate of that increase so we can get—

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we are going to slow it down to about 6.5 percent per year, and we believe, there is every reason to believe, that we as Americans looking forward are going to be able to do that, we are going to be able to save Medicare, strengthen it, improve it, and simplify it all at once.

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For some reason, and I know that we have been feeling very bipartisan tonight, it just irritates me that the minority leader would call this report a hoax, or at least say that we are trying to create a hoax. I am not sure exactly what he meant. Every American should read this. Call (202) 225-3151, ask your Representative for a copy.

Mr. Chairman, I want to move on to something having to do with the Department of Energy. As the chairman of the Committee on the Budget's national security task force, I have been examining the Department of Energy's defense activities. I introduced H.R. 1628, creating the Nuclear Programs Agency, which would be responsible for nuclear weapons activity and environmental cleanup for former DOE defense-related facilities.

As a result of that study and responsibility that I was given on the Committee on the Budget, I discovered that Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary directed the transfer of \$400,000 from defense activities to the Office on Nonproliferation and National Security to pay for her security when she is traveling.

Of particular concern is the \$241,000, which was transferred from the materiel support program, responsible for the production, surveillance, and safeguarding of special nuclear materials including tritium. Tritium is a gas that is critical to the ignition of thermonuclear warheads.

Secretary O'Leary has recently ordered the 23 DOE program offices, the Office of Congressional Affairs, the Office of Public Affairs, the general counsel's office, others, to pay the advance costs of at least two invitational delegation members, each, for a trade mission that is going to take place leaving on August 18 for 6 days to South Africa.

According to an internal DOE memo, the estimated cost per person is \$9,570,

and that does not include an additional \$500 for transport to Washington. The per diem cost of \$930 for 6 days was figured—has my time expired? Is that what that means?

This is very disappointing, Mr. Speaker. I will seek time later, perhaps the gentlewoman from Ohio will give me some time in exchange for the time I gave her.

TITLE X FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the majority party zeroing out funding for title X, which is our Nation's critical Family Planning Program.

The title X Family Planning Program was created in 1970, with broad bipartisan support, as part of the Public Health Service Act. It was enacted and signed into law by then-President Richard Nixon, creating for the first time a comprehensive Federal program devoted entirely to the provision of family planning services on a national basis.

Mr. Speaker, in his message on population growth and the American future, Nixon declared that "No American woman should be denied access to family planning assistance because of her economic condition. I believe, therefore," he continued, "that we should establish as a national goal the provision of family planning services to all who want, but cannot afford them."

Today, title X continues to be the glue that holds the national family planning service delivery system together, largely determining both its structure through its nationwide network of clinics and the substance of its services that are provided to low-income and moderate-income women and teenagers. In 1990, alone, 5.3 million family planning clients were served by clinics administered by title X-supported agencies.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of misconception about the use of these title X funds. The far right claim that title X money is somehow used to pay for abortions. Nothing could be further from the truth. Since its inception in 1970, the title X statute has prohibited the use of the program's funds for abortions as a method of family planning.

In addition, congressional investigations during the 1980's found that all title X-funded clinics were operating in full compliance with the law. Of the more than 4,000 title X-funded clinics nationwide, approximately 80 provide abortions, all with other than title X funds, without exception. In fact, more than 50 percent of these clinics are in hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell my colleagues about title X and what it does.